

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION NSC/E, SS

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIAE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258820

EXDIS

TOSEC 324

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS NICOSIA 4173 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO ATHENS ANKARA USUN NEW YORK NATO MOASCOW

LONDON BEIRUT 22 NOVEMBER 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4173

EXDIS

DEPT PASS AT DISCRETION USEUCOM, USCINCEUR, USDOCOSOUTH, DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR PFOR CY UR TU

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH DENKTASH; REOPENING NICOSIA AIRPORT;
AEROFLOT OFFER

REF: A) ANKARA 8864; B) NICOSIA 4145; C) NICOSIA 3984

1. SUMMARY: DENKTASH CLARIFIES GOT POSITION ON ARRANGEMENTS F

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NICOSIA AIRPORT RE

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PENING. CONFIRMS GOT WILLINGNESS PERMIT

ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT GREEK-CYPRIOT-TURKISH CYPRIOT FIR AT NICOSIA AIRPORT AS STEP TOWARD AIRPORT REOPENING. AGREES TURKEY HAS STRONG INTEREST IN PREVENTING AEROFLOT OPERATIONS BASE IN CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

2. I DISCUSSED REOPENING NICOSIA AIRPORT WITH DENKTASH NOV 22.

3. AT OUTSET, I ASKED DENKTASH TO CLARIFY HIS REMARK OF NOV 11 (REF C) THAT GOT'S POSITION WAS "THREE RESPONSIBLE FOR PERIMETER SECURITY, TWO FOR MANAGEMENT". DENKTASH SAID "TWO" REFERRED TO GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS, "THREE" MEANT GREECE, TURKEY AND UK.

4. I ASKED WHETHER UNDER AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR AIRPORT REOPENING UNDER UN/ICAO MANAGEMENT SUPPORTED BY A JOINT BOARD OF GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS, TURKEY COULD ACCEPT PRESENT DISPOSITION OF FORCES AROUND AIRPORT. DENKTASH SAID YES, SINCE THIS DISPOSITION VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS GOT FORMULA. I SUGGESTED THAT IN THAT CASE THE TIME SURELY OVERDUE TO GET AIRPORT BACK INTO OPERATION. USG CONSIDERED THIS A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY. IT ESSENTIAL THAT NORMAL AIR COMMUNICATIONS TO ISLAND BE RESTORED.

5. DENKTASH SAID THAT CON-FUSION RESULTING FROM EXISTENCE OF TWO FIRS ON CYPRUS, THE TURKISH ONE BEING LOCATED AT TIMBOU AIRFIELD, WITH ATTENDANT POSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS ACCIDENT, HAD BEEN DRAWN TO TURKEY'S ATTENTION AT AN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CONFERENCE. AS A RESULT, HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY TURKEY TO RAISE WITH CLERIDES THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINTLY MANNED FIR CENTER AT NICOSIA AIRPORT. CLERIDES HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST AT THEIR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18. DURING THEIR HELICOPTER TRIP TO POLIS NOVEMBER 20, DENKTASH HAD GIVEN CLERIDES A PARTIAL, AFFIRMATIVE REPLY. HE WOULD CONFIRM THIS OFFICIALLY AT NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH UN SYG SPECIAL REP WECKMANN NOV 25. AT THAT TIME, HE WOULD CONVEY GOT'S ACCEPTANCE AND ADD THAT "IF THIS WORKS, IT WILL BE A USEFUL STEP TOWARD THE CREATION OF THE JOINT BOARD TO WORK UNDER UN/ICAO IN AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR REOPENING THE AIRPORT". I ASKED WHETHER I COULD TAKE THIS AS A STATEMENT OF SERIOUS TURKISH INTENT TO COOPERATE IN REOPENING. DENKTASH REPLIED BY CAREFULLY REPEATING HIS COMMENT.

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6. I ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE TURKISH CYPRIOTS FAMILIAR WITH AN FIR OPERATION OR WHETHER THE INTENTION WAS TO RELY ON MAINLAND EXPERTISE. DENKTASH SAID THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR MAINLAND REPRESENTATION. THERE HAD BEEN TURKISH CYPRIOTS INVOLVED IN CYPRUS FIR OPERATION BEFORE 1963 WHO HAD BEEN TRAINED IN UK. THEY WERE STILL AROUND. HE THOUGHT HE AND CLERIDES COULD VERY QUICKLY AGREE ON DESIGNATION OF POSITIONS WITHIN FIR CENTER.

7. I TOLD DENKTASH THAT ADDED REASON FOR GETTING NICOSIA AIRPORT REOPENED QUICKLY WAS EXISTENCE OF AN AEROFLOT OFFER, CLEVERLY TIMED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GREEK CYPRIOT PREDICAMENT, TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP WITH CYPRUS AIRWAYS. OFFER INCLUDED PROVISION OF AIRCRAFT, FUEL, TRAINING, AND WILLINGNESS ASSIST RECONSTRUCTION OF LARNACA AIRPORT. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS SHOULD BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO GOT AS IT WAS TO USG. DENKASH AGREED, SAYING HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF AEROFLOT OFFER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, TOSEC 324
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE258820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:GTWOHIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740339-0874
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741117/aaaaaohv.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) ANKARA 8864; B) NICOSIA 4145; C), NICOSIA 3984
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH DENKTASH; REOPENING NICOSIA AIRPORT; AEROFLOT OFFER
TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, CY, UR, TU, AEROFLOT, ICAO
To: VLADIVOSTOK TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005